

Exciting week ahead at SOEC complex

New guide to help plan your trip

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Penticton – The entire Okanagan will be making their way to the South Okanagan Events Centre next week to enjoy the opening of the new Cascades Casino, attend the Fest of Ale, drop by the Gun & Antique Show and rock out with Weezer. The City has prepared a [travel guide](#) to make it easier for residents and visitors to plan their trips to these big events.

“It’s pretty exciting to see this level of activity in the off-season as a result of the SOEC complex,” says Anthony Haddad, Director of Development Services. “It will create some pressure on our parking and transportation services so we are encouraging residents to plan ahead, allow more time and try different transportation methods.”

The *Plan your trip to the SOEC complex* guide highlights available public parking, free shuttles, transit routes and walking distances. It will be published in the Penticton Herald and the Penticton Western News which are distributed across the valley. It is currently available on line at shapeyourcitypenticton.ca.

“This is one of those few weekends where we will see overlapping activities that may lead to a parking shortage,” says Haddad. “We want to give people a heads up and let them know about their travel options so they can plan ahead.”

A parking study (December 2015) completed as a requirement for the development of the Cascades Casino showed that with more than 1000+ parking spaces on site, there is sufficient parking at SOEC for the vast majority of the year and on rare occasions where a major event is taking place, there is another 1000+ spaces in lots and on the streets within a 5 to 10 minute walk.

“With a little planning and extra time, residents and visitors can ensure they have a positive and safe travel experience,” says Haddad. Haddad suggests if residents must drive, they should allow extra time to find parking, respect Resident Only Parking areas and be considerate of private businesses and residences.

“Our bylaw officers will be out to monitor parking as we have during past events,” says Haddad. The City is also looking for ideas and feedback on the transportation options and invites residents to share their feedback at www.shapeyourcitypenticton.ca/parking.

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